

# Coordinating Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs

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## Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund

The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF) was established by legislation in 2000 to help families bear the excessive financial burdens associated with the care of children with special health care needs and disabilities. It provides financial assistance for Massachusetts families with children who have medical conditions requiring services that are not covered by a private insurer, federal or state health care assistance, or any other financial source.

The Fund is designed to act as a safety net for families who have excessive expenses related to a child's medical needs. The family may be responsible for these expenses due to:

- A lack of insurance or dependent coverage
- Expenses that exceed the maximum benefit allowed by their insurance company
- Pre-existing conditions, co-payments, and other expenses that are not covered by insurance

The Massachusetts Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund defines any illness as catastrophic based on eligible expenses in relationship to the family's income.

### Who is eligible to apply?

CICRF accepts applications for expenses related to the medical needs of children 18 years old or younger who are residents of Massachusetts. The custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) must submit applications for children under the age of 18.

In order to be eligible, a family must have expenses related to a child's medical condition that exceed 10% of the family's gross annual income up to \$100,000 and 15% of any portion of the annual family income that exceeds \$100,000.

The applicant must also be under the care of a licensed health care provider who has staff privileges at a hospital licensed or accredited to provide pediatric or neonatal care.

### How to apply

Call the Community Support Line at 1-800-882-1435 (TTY: 617-624-5992 for the deaf and hard of hearing) and ask for an application for CICRF. You may also find more information and download the application online at [www.mass.gov/cicrf](http://www.mass.gov/cicrf).

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**Division for Perinatal, Early Childhood, and Special Health Needs**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

1-800-882-1435 • TTY 617-624-5992 • [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)